

And, very importantly, it is budget neutral.

When I return to my constituents in California, I'll be proud to tell them that with this bill: Employer-based health coverage will improve for 461,000 men, women and children who live in my District; 84,000 households in my District will receive affordability credits to help them pay for coverage they otherwise couldn't afford; 9,500 of the seniors in my District will no longer fall victim to the prescription drug "donut-hole"; 17,100 small businesses in my District will be able to obtain affordable healthcare coverage; and that 15,400 small businesses will qualify for tax credits that will help reduce their health insurance costs.

I'm also proud that I joined with Senator Kennedy to author H.R. 3962, to create an FDA pathway for the approval of biosimilar drugs.

Biotechnology is a complex and emerging field that can harness the power to cure cancer, AIDS, and diabetes, and prevent the onset of deadly and debilitating diseases such as Alzheimer's, heart disease, Parkinson's, multiple sclerosis and arthritis.

My amendment will save the government \$6 billion over the next ten years while continuing to foster innovation and new advancements.

After President Obama signs this bill, millions of Americans who today have no health insurance will have it. Patients who are now denied coverage because of a pre-existing condition will no longer be shut out of the system. Millions more seniors will be able to afford their medications, and the average American family will pay less for their health coverage.

Most importantly, we will be keeping our promise to the American people that they will have affordable health insurance which they cannot lose or have taken away from them if they become ill.

I look forward to passing this landmark piece of legislation and seeing it signed into law by the President.

ADELE O'TOOLE

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 16, 2009

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Adele O'Toole for her outstanding service to our community.

Adele O'Toole has lived in Jefferson County Colorado for 20 years, and during that time has been very active in PTA, co-founded a local book club, served as a Cub Scout den mother, Girl Scout leader, and a frequent volunteer at her children's school events. She sponsored a team for the Relay for Life event in Wheat Ridge, and frequently participates in Race for the Cure.

The dedication demonstrated by Adele O'Toole directly benefits her community. Not only does she run a multimillion dollar business, O'Toole's Garden Centers but finds time to serve her community. In her service to the area homeless Adele O'Toole frequently organized Thanksgiving and Easter Basket drives for the homeless and regularly prepares meals for families who stay at the JeffCo Action Center's shelter.

I extend my deepest congratulations once again to Adele O'Toole for her recognition by

the West Chamber of Jefferson County. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all her future accomplishments.

HONORING JUNIOR LEAGUE OF FRESNO

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 16, 2009

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Junior League of Fresno upon 50 years of community service to Fresno County. The Junior League of Fresno will celebrate their 50th anniversary on Saturday, October 10, 2009, in Fresno, California.

In 1948, the Service League of Fresno was established and in 1959 it was accepted into the Association of Junior Leagues International, Incorporated, and became the Junior League of Fresno. The organization was created as a way for women to promote volunteerism, develop the potential of women and to improve the community through the effective action and leadership of trained volunteers.

Each year the Junior League of Fresno with hundreds of active and sustaining members, contributes over 20,000 hours of volunteer service toward community efforts. Over the years the league has successfully met the needs of many in the community. The league members research, develop, manage and support projects with community partners in the Fresno region where current needs are unmet and existing resources are minimal. Trained volunteers are matched with specific community needs, which has led to successful partnerships with many organizations such as Break the Barriers, Children's Hospital Central California, the Discovery Center, Firefighters Creating Memories, Fresno Art Museum, Marjorie Mason Center, and the Sanctuary Youth Center.

By educating, training and creating a hands-on experience for the volunteers, the Junior League of Fresno has contributed over 1 million hours of service in the community and has raised over \$3 million for community projects for children, health care issues, social services, education, women's issues, and cultural arts.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Junior League of Fresno for 50 years of service to the Fresno community. I encourage my colleagues to join me in wishing the league many years of continued success.

IN RECOGNITION OF GENE SKOROPOWSKI

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 16, 2009

Ms. MATSUI. Madam Speaker, I rise today with my esteemed colleagues from California, MIKE THOMPSON, ZOE LOFGREN, PETE STARK, MIKE HONDA, BARBARA LEE, JERRY MCNERNEY and JOHN GARAMENDI as we honor Eugene Skoropowski, who has served the public and private sector of the passenger rail business

for more than 40 years. He is retiring this week as the Managing Director of the Capitol Corridor Joint Powers Authority, CCJPA. As his colleagues, friends and family gather together to celebrate the next chapter of his life, we ask all of our colleagues to join us in saluting this outstanding public servant and supporter of passenger rail.

Not long after receiving his degree in architecture, from the Catholic University in Washington, DC, Gene became an active rail advocate in the late 1960s. His passion and desire to improve the passenger rail business has led him to be not only a national leader, but also a forward thinking innovator. Throughout his career he also has been an inspiration to foreign nations looking to enhance passenger rail service.

Before serving as Manager Director of the Capitol Corridor, Gene managed rail projects with Fluor Corporation for ten years in Los Angeles. During his tenure at Fluor, Gene worked closely with both the French National Railways and SYSTRA. He also served with the Philadelphia Regional Transit System and was Chief Railroad Services Officer for Boston's intercity rail system.

When Gene joined Capitol Corridor in 1999, the CCJPA serviced only eight daily trains. In less than a decade the CCJPA service grew to 32 daily trains on weekdays and 22 trains on weekends. As the number of trains grew, so did the ridership and revenue. He has given commuters across Northern California a convenient transportation alternative. Many train stations have benefitted from Gene's assistance. Such projects include the Richmond Intermodal Station, the Berkeley Station Platform Improvements, New Martinez Intermodal Depot and many more. In recent months, he has been intimately involved in the design of a new station in Sacramento.

Gene's efforts to improve the passenger rail business have not gone unnoticed. Since his arrival, Gene's leadership has led the CCJPA to a number of awards. These awards include, but are not limited to: the Regional Award—Project of the year in 2001, presented by Sacramento Area Council of Governments, SACOG, the Graham Clayton, Jr. Award for Distinguished Service to Passenger Transportation, the Partner of the Year, presented by Solano Transportation Authority, STA, and the 2007 President's Service and Safety Award, presented by Amtrak.

Madam Speaker, we are truly honored to pay tribute to our friend and dedicated public servant. We ask all of our colleagues to join with us in wishing Gene, his wife Joann, daughters June, Julie and Jeannette and grandchildren Nicholas and Samantha continued success and happiness in all of their future endeavors.

HONORING EDWARD R. ROYBAL METRO GOLD LINE EASTSIDE EXTENSION

HON. GRACE F. NAPOLITANO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 16, 2009

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the opening of the Edward R. Roybal Metro Gold Line Eastside Extension project into my 38th Congressional District.

This project, which has received \$490 million in federal funding, will be a vital transportation link for the communities of East Los Angeles and sometime in the future continue through San Gabriel Valley cities. The project has already begun to spur economic development in this historic Mexican-American section of Southern California.

I congratulate my neighboring colleague, Congresswoman LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD for her great work on behalf of this Eastside Extension. She has led the East Los Angeles County delegation in the fight for federal funding for this project over the years. She has continued a tradition of dedicated service to this community begun many years ago by her father, Edward R. Roybal, and we are honoring him here today by naming the Edward R. Roybal Metro Gold Line Eastside Extension in his memory.

This is only the beginning of bringing this important rail extension project to a working class area. Planning and design for phase 2 of this project continues, as it extends the metro line to the cities of Eastern Los Angeles County. Los Angeles Metropolitan Transit Authority and my colleagues must continue to pursue a full funding grant agreement for this project with the Federal Transit Administration in an effort to provide Metro access to the millions of people living in Eastern Los Angeles County. Major cities have great rail transit and the East Los Angeles community should be no exception!

Madam Speaker, my constituency welcomes the metro service finally connecting East Los Angeles to the greater Los Angeles community. This will go a long way to encourage the citizens of East Los Angeles to continue their push for cityhood and will allow the residents of this area to be involved in critical projects, such as the Eastside Extension, that will impact their neighborhood and way of life.

Madam Speaker and colleagues please join me in congratulating the Los Angeles Metropolitan Transit Authority, the Eastern Los Angeles Congressional Delegation, Supervisor Molina, the Review Advisory Committee and the residents of East Los Angeles for their involvement in making this historic moment a reality.

EARMARK DECLARATIONS

HON. HAROLD ROGERS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 16, 2009

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Madam Speaker, pursuant to the House Republican standards on congressionally-directed funding, I am submitting the following information regarding funding included in H.R. 2996, the Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act of 2010.

Requesting Member: Congressman HAROLD ROGERS

Bill Number: H.R. 2996

Account: Department of the Interior—National Forest Service—Land Acquisition

Legal Name of Recipient: Daniel Boone National Forest

Address of Recipient: 1700 Bypass Road, Winchester, KY 40391

Description of Request: Provide directed funding of \$900,000 for the Daniel Boone Na-

tional Forest to acquire additional land from willing sellers in the Red River Gorge area, as well as the Rockcastle River and Horse Lick Creek watersheds. Acquisition of these available tracts of land will minimize fragmentation and help ensure consistent management of the forest. Between 2.5 and 5 million people visit the forest every year.

DR. WANDA BEDINGHAUS

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 16, 2009

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and applaud Dr. Wanda Bedinghaus for her outstanding service to our community.

The dedication demonstrated by Dr. Wanda Bedinghaus directly benefits her community in countless ways. A Jefferson County resident since 1992, Dr. Bedinghaus has made significant efforts to improve the health of individuals in the community. She founded and served as senior minister of Lakewood Unity Church, a center for creative spirituality, as well as Harmonia Center for Healing and co-founded Healing Unleashed.

A pediatrician by training, Dr. Bedinghaus was recently made an assistant professor of pediatrics at the University of Colorado's Health Science Center, Department of Pediatrics. She works steadfastly to transform our current medical system into a true system of prevention and wellness.

Currently, Dr. Bedinghaus is studying clinical nutrition in order to better serve the health needs of Jefferson County residents. In addition, Dr. Bedinghaus is bringing wellness workshops to area businesses, helping improve the health of their employees.

I extend my deepest congratulations once again to Dr. Wanda Bedinghaus for her recognition by the West Chamber of Jefferson County. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all her future accomplishments.

RESOLUTION OF THE HAMILTON COUNTY COUNCIL ENCOURAGING THE PRESERVATION OF INDIANA JOBS

HON. DAN BURTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 16, 2009

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Madam Speaker, in October the national unemployment rate reached 10.2 percent, the highest level of unemployment our country has seen since April 1983. Clearly, the stimulus package rushed into law earlier this year has failed to create the jobs that President Obama, Vice President BIDEN, and the Democrat Congressional Leadership promised it would. And, I fear that the full extent of the unfulfilled promises of job creation and economic stimulus are just beginning to surface.

Under the circumstances, as policymakers one of the first questions we should ask when evaluating any bill that comes before this House is "Will enacting the policies embodied

by this bill potentially jeopardize American jobs?" If the answer is yes, in my opinion, we have a responsibility to the American people to reject that bill. Unfortunately, it appears that my colleagues on the other side of the aisle take a different view. Rather than seeking to preserve and grow private sector jobs they seem determined to kill those jobs in favor of the Federal government assuming control over a larger and larger percentage of our economy.

I would like to briefly discuss one example of the Majority's drive to replace private sector jobs with government jobs that, if enacted into law, will potentially put thousands of Hoosiers out of work. Recently, the House of Representative voted on the "Student Aid and Fiscal Responsibility Act of 2009", H.R. 3221, which sets the stage for the elimination of the Federal Family Education Loan, FFEL, program leaving parents, schools, and students with no choice for obtaining student loans except for the Federal government's Direct Lending Program. Supporters of the proposal contend that consolidating student loans under the Federal umbrella will actually save the Federal government money. They cite as evidence a Congressional Budget Office, CBO, estimate that nationalizing the whole Federal student loan program would save nearly \$90 billion in direct spending over ten years. However, what they fail to mention is that the CBO also found that President Obama's plan to reform the Pell Grant program would increase direct spending by \$293 billion over that same 10-year period. In other words, any potential savings to the taxpayer, real or not, from federalizing the student loan industry will actually be spent many times over. More importantly, whether the plan to federalize the student loan industry is good fiscal policy or not fails to take into account the real world question of jobs.

Moving to a one hundred percent Direct Lending system would kill jobs in the private student loan industry. Make no mistake about it, it is not a question of if jobs will be lost; it is a question of how many jobs will be lost. The FFEL program supports more than 30,000 private sector jobs nationwide. In Indiana alone about 2,300 jobs are in the FFEL industry, and in Indiana's 5th Congressional District, killing off the FFEL program could result in the loss of more than 1,500 jobs.

As you can imagine, the possibility has many of my constituents worried, and for good reason. In Fishers, Indiana, Sallie Mae—the Nation's largest private student loan lender—operates a Loan Service and Data Center and employs 647 Hamilton County residents. The Hamilton County Council—which represents the people of Fishers—is following this issue closely and has taken note of what the end of the FFEL program could mean for hundreds of its residents. I would like to ask unanimous consent to place into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD a copy of the Hamilton County Council resolution encouraging the preservation of Indiana jobs, which was passed on November 4.

RESOLUTION NO. 11-04-09-02

Whereas, the Congress of the United States is debating the President's plan to make college more affordable; and,

Whereas, among many issues involved in said debate is the issue of eliminating private student lenders; and,

Whereas, Sallie Mae and its 8,500 employees across the country including 2,300 in Indiana are "at risk" in said debate; and,